



CONCORDIA AWARDS NINE HONORARY DEGREES

MONTREAL / May 30, 1988 --- Concordia University will award nine honorary degrees during four convocation ceremonies next month. The recipients include the Nobel Prize winner who introduced the concept of "black holes" and a member of the Central Committee of the National Congress of the People's Republic of China.

Honorary Doctor of Laws (LL.D) degrees will be presented between June 9th and June 14th to architect Raymond T. Affleck; scientist Stafford Beer; physics Nobel Prize winner Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar; chemist Ronald J. Gillespie; painter Jori Smith; author Elizabeth Spencer; businessman Allan R. Taylor; researcher Ashok Vijh; and electronics engineer and educator Wei Yu.

All convocation ceremonies will be held at Place des Arts. Approximately 3,000 students will graduate from Concordia's four faculties: Arts & Science; Commerce and Administration; Engineering & Computer Science and Fine Arts.

Additional background information about the honorary degree recipients and the exact times and locations of their convocation addresses can be obtained from SHARON BISHIN, Concordia University Public Relations Officer, at (514) 848-4882.

Elizabeth Spencer and Ronald J. Gillespie will be honoured at the Faculty of Arts & Science convocation, Thursday, June 9th at 10 a.m. in Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier. Elizabeth Spencer will give the convocation address.

ELIZABETH SPENCER

Widely recognized as one of the finest contemporary writers in English, Montréal novelist, playwright, and short story writer Elizabeth Spencer has written nine novels, including Light in the Piazza, which was made into a movie in 1962, and is the recipient of the first Rosenthal Award (in 1957) for Voice at the Back Door. Among her many honours the Mississippi-born author was inducted two years ago into the prestigious American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. She is the only full-member of the Academy living in Canada. Previous inductees of the select, 250-member body have included Eugene O'Neill, John Steinbeck, Robert Frost and William Faulkner. Ms. Spencer is also a respected and admired teacher. She has given workshops in creative writing, has supervised creative writing theses (several of which have been published), and she has served both as Writer-in-Residence and Adjunct Professor at Concordia.

RONALD J. GILLESPIE

Chemistry Professor Ronald J. Gillespie of McMaster University, has made major contributions to the fields of inorganic chemistry and chemical education. A prolific author (he has written two textbooks and more than 300 scientific articles), Ronald Gillespie has been honoured with more than 20 awards in Britain, the United States and Canada. His most recent award was the 1987 Izaak Walton Memorial Prize, which is Canada's most prestigious annual award for distinguished lifetime achievement in the natural sciences, engineering and health sciences. Ronald J. Gillespie has also served as editor of several scientific journals, and he has lectured extensively in Canada and abroad. He has also been a Visiting Professor at universities in France, Switzerland, India, New Zealand, and England.

Stafford Beer and Ashok Vijh will be honoured at the Faculty of Arts & Science afternoon convocation, Thursday, June 9th at 2:30 p.m. in Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier. Stafford Beer will give the convocation address.

STAFFORD BEER

Internationally-honoured scientist, professor, philosopher, painter, poet and business consultant, Stafford Beer was a pioneer of cybernetics, and is an international authority on the science of organization. He has been involved in the development of computers, both in theory and application, and has authored 12 books and published more than 200 articles in learned journals on subjects as varied as data processing, behavioural science, architectural design, political science, management science and chemical engineering. A Massey Lecturer, he is a Fellow of more than a dozen learned societies, and teaches as a Visiting Professor at Manchester University and the University of Pennsylvania. He is also Chairman of the Board of Viable Technologies Corporation, and President of the World Organization of General Systems and Cybernetics. A true renaissance man, Beer has been described as combining not only a unique blend of specific knowledge and skills, honed by professional practice, research and university teaching, but also of broad intellectual and cultural pursuits.

ASHOK VIJH

Researcher Ashok Vijh has an exceptionally productive record of interdisciplinary research in the fields of electrochemistry and electrochemical physics. An internationally-known scientist, Dr. Vijh earned his PhD at the University of Ottawa. In the last 12 years he has worked in American industry, as Program Leader and Research Master at Hydro-Québec's Institut de recherche (IREQ), and as a Visiting Professor and Thesis Director at the Université du Québec's INRS-Energy research centre. His original and extensive research has had an international impact on such areas as electrochemical energy conversion and storage; the use of industrial electrolyzers for the production of hydrogen; and electrometallurgical engineering for the extraction of aluminum, copper and zinc from ores. The author of five books and several hundred articles and book reviews, Dr. Vigh sits on the editorial boards of numerous international and Canadian journals, and is a Fellow of several prestigious Societies. He is also an Officer of the Ordre National du Québec and the recipient of the Canada Council's 1987 Izaak-Walton-Killam Award.

Allan R. Taylor will be honoured at the Commerce and Administration convocation, Monday, June 13th, at 2:30 p.m. in Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier. Mr. Taylor will give the convocation address.

ALLAN R. TAYLOR

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Royal Bank of Canada, Allan R. Taylor has had a distinguished 39-year career in Canadian banking. The Saskatchewan native joined Canada's largest bank, the Royal, in 1949, and rose swiftly through the ranks, serving in many capacities in Canada and abroad. He was named the bank's Chairman and CEO in June 1986. During the past decade Mr. Taylor has also been very supportive of the role universities play in Canadian society, and he has developed particularly close ties with Concordia. After serving as a charter member in 1981 of Concordia's Advisory Committee to the Rector on Public Affairs, Mr. Taylor served as Deputy Chair and, later, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporate-Higher Education Forum, the federally-chartered non-profit corporation that Concordia formed in 1983 to foster closer cooperation between the worlds of business and academe. He has also served as a member of the Advisory Committee at Boston's Northeastern University, and sits on numerous corporate boards.

Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar and Wei Yu will be honoured at the Engineering & Computer Science convocation Tuesday, June 14th at 10 a.m. in Théâtre Maisonneuve. Dr. Chandrasekhar will give the convocation address.

SUBRAHMANYAN CHANDRASEKHAR

The 1983 Nobel Prize winner for Physics, Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar is credited with the theoretical work which made possible the acceptance of the theory of "black holes" in space. His early work at Cambridge during the 1930s on the stellar structure is now used to explain the presence of neutron stars, and in the years since this brilliant and prolific mathematical astronomer has made major contributions to the fields of stellar

SUBRAHMANYAN CHANDRASEKHAR (cont'd)

dynamics, radiative transfer and hydromagnetics. During his distinguished career Dr. Chandrasekhar has authored numerous textbooks, and he served for 20 years as sole Editor of the Astrophysics Journal. Although he is probably best-known for his fundamental research into stellar structure and stellar dynamics, Dr. Chandrasekhar is also recognized for his enormous contributions to the general applied sciences and engineering. Among other things his work led to the development of the mechanics of Brownian motion, which is widely used in statistical communication theory. He has taught both at Cambridge and the University of Chicago.

Wei Yu

Currently President of the Nanjing Institute of Technology, Dr. Wei Yu is one of the leading academics of the People's Republic of China. Educated as an electronics Engineer at the Nanjing Engineering Institute and the Aachen Polytechnical University, she is active in a large number of professional associations and is, at present, Vice-Chair of the Association for Science and Technology of Jiangsu Province, Vice-President of the Chinese Association of Medical Imaging Technology and a director of the Chinese Society of Electronics. Her input into the formation of Chinese higher education policy is considerable, due in part to her membership on the Central Committee of the National People's Congress. As President of the Nanjing Institute of Technology Dr. Wei Yu has particularly close ties to Concordia. The success of the joint doctoral program that Concordia signed with the NIT last year was due in large measure to her leadership and vision. The widely-acclaimed entente was the first of its kind between the People's Republic of China and a university in the western world. Dr. Wei Yu has travelled extensively, and visited Concordia in 1986 when she was Vice-President of the NIT.

Raymond T. Affleck and Jori Smith will be honoured at the Faculty of Fine Arts convocation Tuesday, June 14th at 2:30 p.m. in the Théâtre Maisonneuve. Mr. Affleck will give the convocation address.

RAYMOND T. AFFLECK

Award-winning Montréal architect Raymond T. Affleck has been a respected member of the Canadian architectural community for 35 years. An author and teacher as well as a practising professional, Mr. Affleck has served as a senior partner or consultant on such prestigious projects as Place Bonaventure, Place Ville Marie, the Maison Alcan, Place Air Canada, New York City's World Trade Center Concourse, the Toronto Harbourfront Long Range Plan, the Halifax/Dartmouth Waterfront Re-Development Plan, and the St. John's Arts and Culture Centre. A fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, Raymond T. Affleck has taught and lectured at numerous Schools of Architecture. He also designed the Life Sciences Centre at Dalhousie University and the Stephen Leacock Building at McGill. Among his numerous activities and interests, Mr. Affleck is an advisor to the Massey Foundation and the Canada Council on the establishment of the Vincent Massey Awards program. He himself has won numerous academic and professional awards.

JORI SMITH

Award-winning Québec artist Jori Smith has been exhibiting her paintings continuously for more than 60 years, including 38 consecutive years at the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts Spring Show. Considered one of Canada's more significant painters by her peers and art historians alike, Jori Smith's work has been exhibited in the National Gallery of Canada and in all major centres across the country. Her first one-woman show was held at Montréal's Dominion Gallery in 1955. Now in her eighties, she has also had exhibitions abroad in Amsterdam, New Delhi, London and New York. Her work can be found in many public and private collections. A contemporary and colleague of such notables as Jean-Paul Lemieux and Edwin Holgate, Smith was also influenced in the 1930s by such prominent Canadian artists as Jack Humphrey, John Lyman, Phillip Surrey and Alfred Pellán. Never considered a "fashionable, mainstream" painter, Smith's work has made a significant contribution to Modernism generally, and to Canadian and Montréal painting in particular.

Media representatives requiring further information should contact: SHARON BISHIN, Public Relations Officer, at (514) 848-4882.